

Human Relations Committee Meeting

July 15, 2013 5:15 pm

I. Call to Order - Jane called the meeting to order at 5:21 pm.

II. Roll Call - *Members Present:* Jane Halverson, Karla Buzick, Brant Malsam, Sharon Korsmo, Brenda Finn

Members Absent:

Excused: Gerry Teevens

Unexcused: Gregory Thiboutot, Sunanda Jain

Guests Present: Gloria David, Bill Wokken, Murray Sagsveen

III. Approval of minutes - Sharon Korsmo moved to approve the changes to the June minutes. Karla Buzick seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Public Comment - Karla Buzick received an email regarding Grand Forks city passing a city employee ordinance to protect city employees from discriminations based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Guest Murray Sagsveen suggests we do what we can according to the regulations of the committee to see that this is introduced to the City of Bismarck. The committee discussed how to recommend to City Commission to add a clause similar to Grand Forks to protect city employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

The motion was made by Karla Buzick to recommend this to the City of Bismarck, Brenda Finn seconded. All agreed; motion passed.

Karla Buzick will speak to Commissioner Josh Askvig to get it on the agenda for the next City Commission meeting.

V. Humanitarian Award Review: Presentation of the award to Nan Johnson with Crescent Manor by Mayor Warford at Crescent Manor on July 11, 2013. It was well received. There was a picture in the Bismarck Tribune of the Mayor with Nan.

VI. Diversity University: Karla Buzick reported the dates reserved at BSC Prairie Room are September 12, 19, 26 and October 3 from 7-9 each evening.

Topics for discussions narrowed down to:

September 12: OPEN, one suggestion was Tim Purdon.

September 19: Progress for LGBT Americans: What does this mean for North Dakotans by Josh Boschee

September 26: Racial and Cultural Diversity in the Workplace (need panel speakers). Brenda Finn, Jane Halverson, and Gloria David will make contacts for panel speakers. Jane Halverson will contact ND Job Service to see if someone will speak on the stats of cultural diversity.

The mayor recommended having the committee do a cultural event/fair to represent the multi-cultural persons in the area now. Venues for this event were discussed and possible other groups to join up with to spread out cost. Karla Buzick offered to look into this. The committee is looking to do this for a finale of Diversity University on October 3.

VII. Other: Including this meeting, Gregory Thiboutot has had his 4th consecutive unexcused absence. Jane Halverson asked that Gloria David send a letter requesting his resignation according to the committee ordinance.

Jane Halverson received an email questioning if the committee did anything for International Human Rights Day. She replied that we did not specifically, but listed what the committee is doing this year.

VIII. Adjournment: Jane Halverson adjourned the meeting at 6:49 pm.